

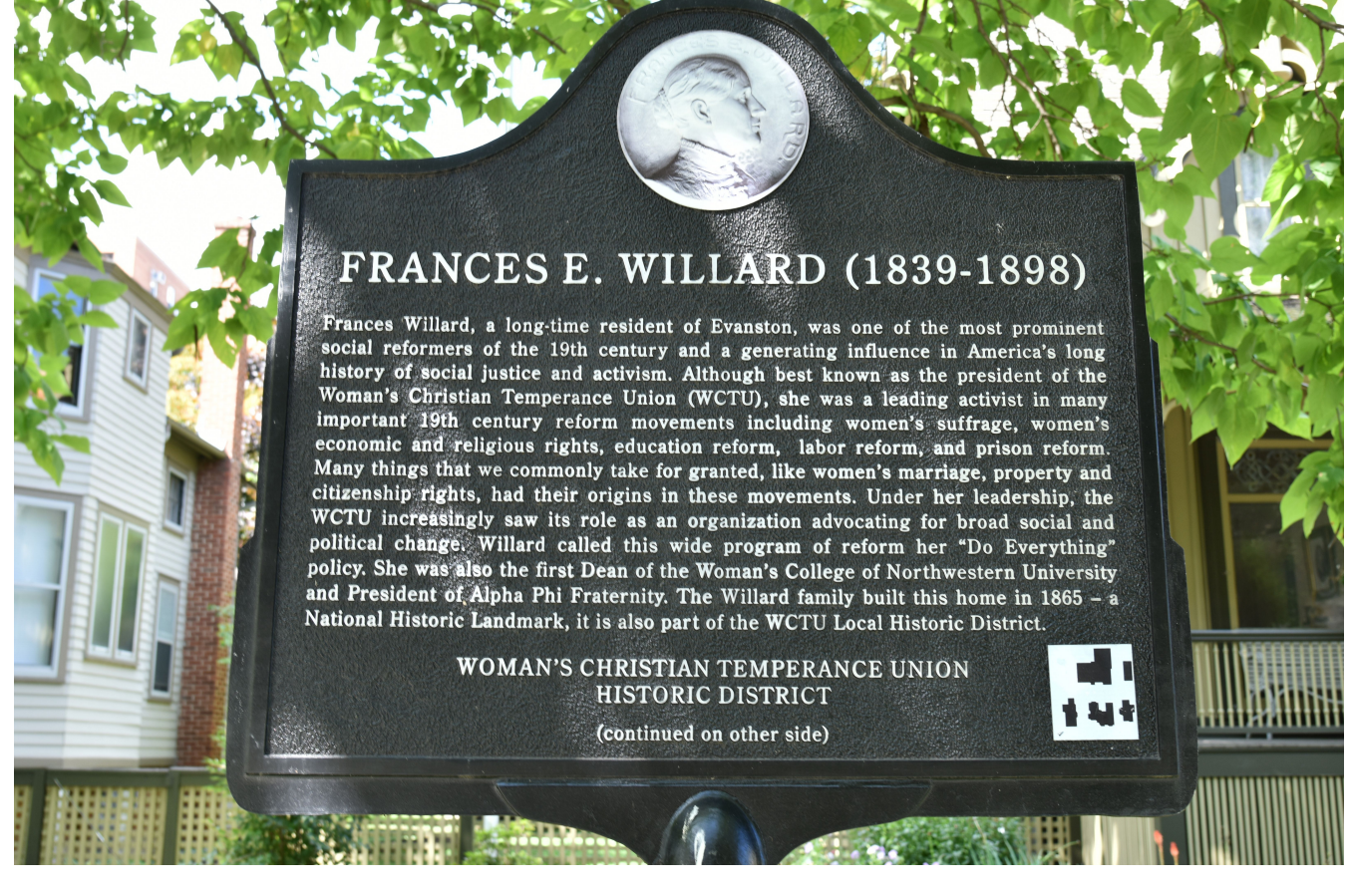


Donate and Support

Preservation Month 2022: People Saving Places

Happy Preservation Month! The 2022 theme, "People Saving Places," honors the people who pour their time, energy, and resources into protecting the historic sites that help us understand the past and present.

The Frances Willard House Museum is one of the places recognized this month by the Evanston Preservation Commission. The Willard House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965 by the National Park Service.



Willard House historic marker.

Built in 1865, the house is a remarkable example of a Gothic Revival cottage – a common style in "vernacular" architecture of its time, but rare to find intact today. You can read about exterior and interior restoration projects we've completed [here](#).



One of the rooms that was restored during our 2016 interior renovation project.

This Preservation Month, please consider becoming a "place-saver" and [supporting our efforts](#) to tell the story of this unique site of women's advocacy and community building.

You can also join in the celebration by taking a **Preservation Month tour!** Tours will be held **Thursday, May 19 and Sunday, May 22 at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.** Admission is \$15 per person and free for students at all levels. Reservations and masks are required. To RSVP, email info@franceswillardhouse.org or call (847) 328-7500.

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New Digital Exhibit: WCTU Fountains



WCTU Ice Water Fountain and its sculptor Elsie Ward at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

We are pleased to announce the release of our newest digital exhibit, [Local Sources: WCTU Drinking Fountains](#). This exhibit documents a WCTU legacy that is often hidden in plain sight: the hundreds of drinking fountains installed by local Unions in towns and cities across the country from the 1880s to the 1930s. One of the WCTU's long-standing goals was to supply fresh drinking water as an alternative to the offerings of saloons. Fountains also fulfilled another WCTU mission: animal welfare, as many included troughs for horses and dogs as well as spouts for humans.

Placed in public areas such as parks and major intersections, these fountains symbolized the WCTU's local influence – and many of them have been saved by local preservation efforts. The exhibit currently documents over 90 fountains, and more will be added as they are discovered.

This digital exhibit was created by Elisabeth Heissner, a rising senior at Loyola University Chicago, as part of her spring internship at the Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives. You can read about her internship experience and the behind-the-scenes process of researching and creating the exhibit in her new post on our [blog](#).

Celebrate Bicycle Month with Frances and Gladys!



Willard learning to ride a bicycle in England.

Frances Willard would certainly have celebrated Bicycle Month in May, as she was an early adopter of bicycle riding and one of its strongest proponents. In addition to health benefits, she believed that bicycling contributed to women and girls' sense of independence and freedom. She named all of her bicycles Gladys, because they made her "glad." **You can meet "Gladys III" first-hand by taking a tour of the Willard House. You can also pick up our free DIY Evanston women's history bicycle tour maps anytime outside the front door of the Museum.**



Gladys III on display.

We are also excited to announce the unveiling of a **new bicycle and walking tour** that focuses on Frances Willard's life in Evanston. **Frances and Gladys: A Bicycle Tour** takes visitors on an exploration of Willard's local legacy through the lens of the places and relationships that shaped her life. Now that warmer weather has arrived, we invite you to enjoy this outdoor tour as a stand-alone or complementary experience to a museum visit.

The tour is hosted by *Clio: Your Guide to History*. You can access Clio by downloading the app on your mobile phone or by using the [Clio website](#), where you can print a pdf of the tour. You can find the tour by searching for Evanston tours, or you can access it directly [here](#). The tour was created by a graduate student team in the fall 2021 Public History class at Loyola University Chicago. We thank them for their hard work!



Preservation Month Around Town: African American Heritage Sites



In 2020, the City of Evanston adopted a resolution to recognize African American Heritage Sites. While many buildings have not been afforded the formal protection of historic preservation efforts, the community is now committed to recognizing this cultural legacy with historic markers and education. Eight Heritage Markers will be installed throughout 2022.

Today, Saturday, May 14 at 1pm the Shorefront Legacy Center will unveil the first two Historic Markers: one commemorating the home of Edwin B. Jourdain, Jr., Evanston's first African American alderman, and the other commemorating the home of Lorraine Morton, Evanston's first African American mayor. The unveiling ceremony will begin in front of Jourdain's home at 2023 Darrow Avenue and will proceed to Morton's home at 2102 Darrow Avenue. The event is open to the public. You can learn more about the Historic Marker project and explore all the sites [here](#).

New Blog Post: Mary Thompson Hill Willard



In honor of Mother's Day, Fiona Maxwell (Willard House Director of Museum Operations and Communications and University of Chicago History PhD candidate) has published a new [blog post](#) about Frances Willard's mother, Mary Thompson Hill Willard. Frances Willard traced the origins of her approach to leadership to her mother's foundational guidance and support. Read on to learn why the story of the Willard House is in part the story of this remarkable intergenerational partnership.

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